

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SAB-01 RSC-01 /018 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:MHNOBLE
APPROVED BY PA/M:MHNOBLE
ARA/PAN:PFMORRIS (PHONE)
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA/M-MR. STUBBS, PA/PP-MR. BASORA
----- 128995

R 222051Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 015263

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PN
SUBJECT: AMERICAN LEGION VISIT TO PANAMA

1. AMERICAN LEGION HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT MEMBERS OF ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND ITS NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION ARE PLANNING STUDY TOUR OF PANAMA CANAL IN CONNECTION WITH LEGION'S ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS ON THAT ISSUE.

2. GROUP IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE 75 MEN AND THEIR WIVES WHO WILL VISIT PANAMA MARCH 7 THROUGH 14 AT OWN EXPENSE.

3. GROUP WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEFINGS FROM EMBASSY, FROM PANAMA CANAL COMPANY, AND FROM PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. GROUP ALSO EXPECTS TO TOUR CANAL ZONE AND OBSERVE OPERATIONS OF CANAL AT MIRAFLORES LOCK.

4. LEGION WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP BRIEFINGS MENTIONED ABOVE, ONE EACH MORNING MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10-12. LEGION SAYS WHILE THIS THEIR PREFERENCE, THEY VERY FLEXIBLE AT THIS TIME AND COULD ADJUST TO AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATION.

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5. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM DEPT. OF RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE

AND NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CONTROL OFFICER.

6. FYI: TOUR FOLLOWS WASHINGTON NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LEGION LEADERSHIP. GROUP EXPECTED TO BE BRIEFED ON MARCH 6 BEFORE DEPARTURE BY PATRICK MORRIS. FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION PROBABLY WILL RECEIVE MORE WIDE RANGING BRIEFING AT DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 4. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE015263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MHN0BLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750025-0194
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750129/aaaaazmb.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN LEGION VISIT TO PANAMA
TAGS: OTRA, PN
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006